This book club series aims to dispel common stereotypes of the Middle East by exploring literature from the region. The rich narratives, stimulating detail and enchanting dialogue of the selected memoirs will draw readers in and provide new perspectives on the Middle East, beyond war and politics. Through interactive and participatory book club discussions, readers will engage with the text, with experts and authors, and with each other to explore the diversity of daily life in the Middle East and consider both the similarities to and differences from our own lives in Oregon.

Book Club Sessions

Free copies of books will be available to a limited number of participants

More information on this series, including future book club meetings available at middleeastpdx.org/memoir

Daughter of Damascus by Siham Tergeman & translated by Andrea Rugh

Featuring a discussion of the book with Andrea Rugh, translator and Middle East Institute scholar

Tuesday, January 7, 6:15 pm, Multnomah County Central Library U.S. Bank Room, 810 SW 10th Avenue

Lipstick Jihad by Azadeh Moaveni

Tuesday, February 4, 6:15 pm, Multnomah County Central Library U.S. Bank Room, 810 SW 10th Avenue

Presented with the Multnomah County Library and the Portland State University Department of English and Center for Public Humanities and made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds Oregon Humanities’ grant program. Any views, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon Humanities or the National endowment for the Humanities.

Collaborative Discussion

Do (Muslim) Girls Really Need Saving? Taking the Rock Camp Model of Girls’ Empowerment to Bahrain

Nadia Buyse, artist & educator; Sarah Dougher, Adjunct Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Portland State University; and Beth Wooten, Executive Director, Rock ‘n’ Roll Camp for Girls

Thursday, January 23, 7 pm, Smith Memorial Student Union room 236, 1825 SW Broadway

Presented with the Portland State University Program in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

All events are free & open to the public

The Middle East Studies Center gratefully acknowledges financial support from the U.S. Department of Education Title VI program & Aramco Services Company. Updates and additional information about these and other programs are available on the Middle East Studies Center’s website: pdx.edu/middle-east-studies | middleeaststudiescenter@pdx.edu | 503-725-4074